

REMARKS

This is intended as a supplemental response to the RCE and Amendment and Final Office Action dated July 29, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 29, 2008. Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15-17, 19-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 8-12, 15-17, 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) being unpatentable over Hayes (U.S. 2003/0158906) in view of Connery (US 6,246,683). Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayes and Connery in view of known prior art. Claims 22-25 are cancelled. No new matters are added by the amendments made herein. Entry and consideration of the amendments are thus respectfully requested.

Interview with Examiner

Applicants' undersigned representative appreciates that the Examiner accommodated the request for an interview. On December 2, 2008, a telephonic interview was held between the Examiner, Kerri Rose and Stephanie Winner (an agent of record). The limitation of "indicating how many of the user buffers are accepted" in claims 1, 9, and 16 was discussed. S. Winner agreed that Applicants would file a supplemental amendment to clarify the limitation.

Amendments

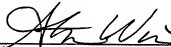
As amended, claims 1, 9, and 16 each recite the limitation of indicating in a field of a user buffer descriptor how many of the user buffers store processed frame data. This limitation is supported by paragraph [0071] of the application as originally filed. Claims are amended 26, 28, and 29 to clarify the limitations of the existing and new user buffer descriptors. The existing user buffer descriptors are for user buffers that do not store processed frame data and the new user buffer descriptors are for user buffers that are received while the sync request flag is asserted.

Hayes and Connery each fail to teach or suggest indicating, in a field of a user buffer descriptor, how many of the user buffers store processed frame data for delegated connections, as recited in amended claims 1, 9, and 16. Therefore, amended claims 1, 9, and 16, and claims 2-5, 8, 10-12, 15, 17, 19, 20, and 26-30, dependent thereon, are patentable over any combination of Hayes and Connery.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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